

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE:

MEETING OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS (WEO) GROUP

TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

REFS: (A) STATE 91900; (B) STATE 89099

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1. SUMMARY: CANADIANS HOSTED MEETING OF WESTERN EUROPEAN
AND OTHERS GROUP ON APRIL 28 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SUB-
STANTIVE ISSUES THAT ARE LIKELY TO ARISE AT THE SEABED
ARMS CONTROL

TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD
IN GENEVA FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 1, 1977. SWEDEN

CIRCULATED A PAPER CONTAINING PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON SOME QUESTIONS LIKELY TO BE RAISED. ITALY INDICATED INTEREST IN TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE LIMITS OF THE SEABED ZONE (ARTICLE II OF TREATY) NOT BE CHANGED FROM 12 MILES OUT TO 200 MILES IN THE PROCESS OF EXTENDING TERRITORIAL WATERS. MOST PARTICIPANTS INDICATED DESIRE TO KEEP LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES OUT OF SEABED REVCON TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE AND SHARED VIEW THAT SEABED TREATY HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE, ALBEIT MODEST, ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT. GROUP AGREED TO HOLD FURTHER MEETINGS PRIOR TO AND DURING REVCON. END SUMMARY.

2. CANADIAN DISARMAMENT DELEGATION HOSTED MEETING OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP ON APRIL 28 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE AT SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE. CANADIAN ALTERNATE CCD REP (SIMARD) CHAIRED MEETING WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY REPS FROM US, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA, FRG, SWITZERLAND, UK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, JAPAN, FINLAND, NEW ZEALAND, AND AUSTRIA. ALTHOUGH A MEMBER OF ASIAN GROUP FOR PURPOSES OF REVCON, JAPAN HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN WEO CAUCUS.

3. SWEDISH REP (HAMILTON) CIRCULATED PAPER CONTAINING SOME PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON QUESTIONS WHICH MAY BE RAISED DURING REVCON. THE PAPER POINTS OUT THE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN MILITARY AND PEACEFUL USE OF SEABED AND CALLS FOR "A MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT" OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TREATY. WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING FURTHER MEASURES WHICH ARE CALLED FOR IN ARTICLE V, THE SWEDISH PAPER CONCLUDES THAT THE REVCON MIGHT RECOMMEND AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, PENDING SUCH NEGOTIATIONS, THAT PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO SHOW UNILATERAL RESTRAINT IN EMPLACING OR EMBEDDING OTHER OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, OTHER THAN MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS, ON THE SEABED. THE SWEDISH PAPER ALSO RAIED THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

A. HAVE DEVELOPMENTS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES MADE IT MORE FEASIBLE TO EMPLANT OR EMBED WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ON THE SEABED, THE OCEAN FLOOR AND IN THE SUBSOIL THEREOF?

B. HAS IT BECOME TECHNOLOGICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY MORE FEASIBLE TO EMPLANT OR EMLACE OTHER WEAPONS THAN THOSE OF MASS DESTRUCTION ON THE SEABED?

C. HAS TECHNOLOGY (E.G., IMPACT OF INCREASED SATELLITE

RECONNAISSANCE) CREATED NEW MOTIVES TO EMPLACE OR EMPLANT
WEAPONS UNDER A AND B ABOVE ON THE SEABED OR IN THE SUBSOIL
THEREOF?

D. EVALUATION WHETHER SUCH TRENDS PRESENT ALREADY, OR
MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO PRESENT INCREASED RISKS FOR AN ARMS RACE
ON THE SEABED AND SHOULD CONSEQUENTLY BE THE OBJECT EITHER
OF STUDIES OR OF NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING FURTHER MEASURES IN
THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT (ARTICLE V).

E. ASSESSMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AS REGARDS INSTALLA-
TIONS FOR PEACEFUL USE WHICH MIGHT ALSO BE USED FOR
MILITARY PURPOSES.

F. EVALUATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR CONTROLLING
ACTIVITIES ON THE SEABED AND WHICH MIGHT BE RELEVANT TO
THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE III.
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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4. ITALIAN REP (DE BERNARDO) SAID THAT IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW SEABED TREATY IS WELL STRUCTURED AND WELL BALANCED, BUT THAT THERE IS INTEREST IN TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE LIMITS OF SEABED ZONE (ARTICLE II) ARE NOT CHANGED FROM 12 MILES OUT TO 200 MILES IN THE PROCESS OF EXTENDING TERRITORIAL WATERS.

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5. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVCON TO GIVING SERIOUS ATTENTION TO POSSIBILITIES FOR MAKING THE TREATY MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND FOR PREVENTING ARMS RACE ON SEABED. HE NOTED THAT GON HAD MADE SUCH A COMMITMENT TO ITS PARLIAMENT IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY IN 1975. HE REPORTED THAT NETHERLANDS IS REVIEWING TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY BE RELEVANT, BUT HAD NOT YET REACHED ANY CONCLUSIONS IN THIS REGARD. HE NOTED THAT SEABED ARMS CONTROL IS A COMPLICATED MATTER WHICH INVOLVES IMPORTANT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT COMPLETE DEMILITARIZATION OF SEABED IS NOT REALISTIC. HOWEVER, HE REITERATED THAT GON IS COMMITTED TO CONSIDERING FURTHER PERTINENT ARMS CONTROL MEASURES. HE SAID GON HAS NO AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSE AT THIS TIME AND STRESSED THAT AMENDMENT PROCESS IS NOT TIED TO REVCON.

6. US REP (TURRENTINE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A MADE FOLLOWING POINTS DRAWING ON REF B:

A. USG BELIEVES THAT SEABED TREATY HAS FUNCTIONED EFFECTIVELY, AND ANTICIPATES THAT REVCON WILL COME TO SAME CONCLUSION.

B. SINCE THERE HAS NOT BEEN AND THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF AN ARMS RACE ON THE SEABED, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO NEED TO DIRECT EFFORTS TOWARD FURTHER SEABED ARMS CONTROL MEASURES AT THIS TIME.

C. USG SEES NO NEED TO AMEND TREATY AT THIS TIME.
HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE PRO-
POSALS, AND TO DISCUSS THE BEST WAY FOR DEALING WITH THEM.

D. USG WOULD LIKE TO ENSURE THAT LAW OF SEA (LOS) ISSUES
DO NOT INTRUDE INTO SEABED REVCON.
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E. WE WISH TO SEE REVIEW PROCESS CARRIED OUT IN A
BUSINESSLIKE AND ORDERLY WAY, AND WISH TO AVOID UNHELPFUL
PRECEDENTS WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY IMPACT ON FUTURE REVCONS
ON ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS.

F. USG IS STUDYING QUESTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS
WHICH MAY BE RELEVANT TO SEABED TREATY, BUT HAS COME TO NO
CONCLUSIONS YET.

G. WE AGREE WITH NETHERLANDS REP THAT DEMILITARIZATION
OF SEABED IS NEITHER REALISTIC NOR DESIRABLE.

7. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) WELCOMED SWEDISH PAPER AND SAID
THAT FRG POSITION WAS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THAT OF US.

8. CANADIAN REP SAID THAT GOC WAS NOT PLANNING TO PROPOSE
ANY AMENDMENTS AT PRESENT, BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE CON-
SIDERATION GIVEN TO BROADENING PROHIBITION WITH RESPECT
TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. HE THOUGHT THAT FOCUS OF REVCON
WOULD BE DRAFTING OF ADEQUATE FINAL DOCUMENT WHICH MIGHT
IDENTIFY FURTHER STEPS IN SEABED ARMS CONTROL THAT MAY BE
WORTH PURSUING. IN GENERAL, GOC VIEWS SEABED TREATY AS
MINOR STEP IN TERMS OF ARMS CONTROL WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY
AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND USSR THAT HAS BEEN MULTI-
LATERALIZED. CANADIAN REP NOTED THAT UN RES 2749 (XXV)
CALLED FOR SEABED TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL
PURPOSES AND WONDERED IF THIS ISSUE MAY NOT COME UP.

9. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE CANADIAN REP, ALL
PARTICIPANTS INDICATED THAT THEY HAD NO PLANS AT THIS TIME
TO INCLUDE LOS EXPERTS ON REVCON DELS.

10. FINNISH REP (RAJAKOSKI) INDICATED OPEN MIND TOWARD
REVCON AND AGREED WITH CANADA THAT TREATY IS MODEST IN-
STRUMENT, BUT THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS TO BE
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TOO AMBITIOUS IN OPENING TREATY TO CHANGES.

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ACTION ACDA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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11. JAPANESE REP (SAWAI) SAID THAT GOJ AT PRESENT HAS NO
INTENTION OF PROPOSING ANY AMENDMENT, BUT INTENDS TO TAKE
FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO REVCON. HE WONDERED IF VERIFICATION
PROVISION MIGHT NOT BE IMPROVED TO TAKE ENMOD EXPERIENCE
INTO ACCOUNT.

12. NEW ZEALAND REP (FARNON) REPORTED STRONG EASTERN
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EUROPEAN CONCERN REGARDING LOS ISSUES BEING INTERJECTED
IN SEABED REVCON.

13. AUSTRALIAN REP (BLAKENEY) SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
WAS OPEN MINDED WITH RESPECT TO REVCON, BUT WAS ALSO AWARE
THAT OPENING THE TEXT OF THE TREATY UP TO AMENDMENT MIGHT
PRODUCE CHAIN REACTION. HE SAID THAT, WHILE TREATY WAS
A MODEST STEP, IT WAS A POSITIVE STEP AND SHOULD NOT BE
DENEGRATED. HE EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT
ATTEMPTING TO MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENT TO ARTICLE II TO EMPHASIZE
12 MILE SEABED ZONE, AS ITALIANS HAD SUGGESTED.

14. US REP SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO TAMPER WITH
ARTICLE II SINCE IT MADE CLEAR THAT SEABED ZONE STARTS AT
12 MILES, BUT AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR TREATY
LEGAL EXPERTS TO CONSIDER ISSUE RAISED BY ITALIANS. HE
ALSO NOTED THAT QUESTION OF FUTURE REVCONS WAS BOUND TO
ARISE, AND THAT USG WOULD PREFER TO HAVE SUCH REVCONS
ONLY WHEN NEEDED.

15. FRG REP EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT ENMOD FORMULA
MAY SERVE AS USEFUL EXAMPLE IN PROVIDING FOR FUTURE REVCONS.

16. WITH RESPECT TO WEO CANDIDATES FOR REVCON OFFICES,
THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR CANADA (JAY) FOR CHAIRMAN
OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND ITALY, NORWAY, AND NETHERLANDS
FOR VICE-PRESIDENTS (IN ADDITION TO US AND UK WHO ARE
AUTOMATICALLY ON CONFERENCE BUREAU AS DEPOSITARIES).

17. IT WAS AGREED THAT WEO GROUP WOULD MEET AGAIN ON
MAY 24 AND ON JUNE 13 AT CANADIAN MISSION PRIOR TO
REVCON WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN GENEVA FROM JUNE 20
TO JULY 1. SORENSON

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